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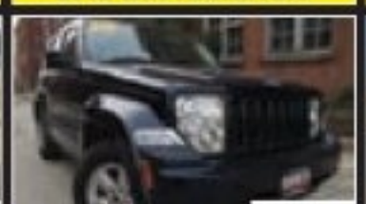
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PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

SOUTH AFRICAN COURT REJECTS PISTORIUS RIGHT TO APPEAL CONVICTION

GETTY IMAGES

South Africa's Constitutional Court on Thursday rejected Olympian Oscar Pistorius' right to appeal against his conviction for the murder of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. The Supreme Court of Appeal changed the 29-year-old's conviction to murder in December after the state prosecutors appealed the athlete's prior conviction of culpable homicide in the Pretoria High Court. South African authorities had challenged Pistorius' appeal on the grounds that the Supreme Court of Appeal had correctly found Pistorius guilty. The athlete, nicknamed "Blade Runner" because of the prosthetic legs he uses to race, had filed papers to appeal against his conviction at the Constitutional Court, the country's highest court, on Jan. 11. REUTERS

CUBA SENDING AMERICANS TO THE BEACH DURING OBAMA VISIT

2 Americans traveling to Cuba later this month are being moved out of Havana hotels to make room for President Barack Obama's entourage and being sent tantalizingly close to a place U.S. law effectively forbids them from visiting: the beach. Obama will make his historic trip to the Communist-ruled Caribbean island on March 21-22 with hundreds of people in tow, crowning 15 months of warming relations after more than half a century of Cold War animosity. REUTERS

TECH COMPANIES UNITE BEHIND APPLE AHEAD OF ENCRYPTION RULING

3 Google, Facebook, Microsoft and about a dozen other Internet companies will file a joint legal brief Thursday asking a judge to support Apple in its encryption battle with the U.S. government, sources familiar with the companies' plans said. They will outline their rationale for supporting Apple in an amicus brief to the Riverside, California, federal judge who will rule on Apple's appeal of a court order that would force it to create software to unlock an iPhone associated with last December's shootings in San Bernardino. Privacy advocacy groups The American Civil Liberties Union, Access Now and the Wickr Foundation filed briefs in support of Apple before Thursday's deadline set by Judge Sheri Pym. REUTERS

Lisa Razzi and Buddy Segeske PROVIDED

Philly man sent off with obit to match his sense of humor

Elwood "Buddy" Segeske wanted a fun obituary — and he got it.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

For years, Kensington native Elwood "Buddy" Segeske told friends that when he died he didn't want a sad obituary but something fun — like the one he'd clipped out of the newspaper years ago, which he kept and liked to pull out and show off.

"He said, 'When I die, this is how I want to be remembered,'" recalled his longtime girlfriend Lisa Razzi.

So when Segeske passed away at 60 last week from complications brought on by a heart attack, Razzi, with help from her friend Donna Renae, went to work.

The way they put his passing: He "ate his last Philadelphia soft pretzel on February 25, 2016." The cause of death? The lasting effects of an alien abduction. Hobbies? "Stalking Jennifer Lawrence and looking at boobs."

In addition to leaving behind three siblings and two sons there's also "a battery-operated cymbal-smashing monkey," the obituary states.

Now Segeske's obituary is going viral. It has been shared widely across social media, gotten nearly 2,000 up-votes on Reddit, and has been reported on across the Internet as more and more people learn about Segeske's bizarre, wondrous life.

> *"I think he would be enjoying this, he really would ... It was totally him, to celebrate his quirkiness, his twisted sense of humor."*
>
> Razzi

"I have just been floored by all the attention Buddy's obituary has gotten," Razzi, 52, said. "I think he would be enjoying this, he really would ... It was totally him, to celebrate his quirkiness, his twisted sense of humor."

Segeske had to stop his work as a tool and die maker in recent years after back surgery, which worsened his health but didn't dampen his spirits. When Razzi made him try yoga, he was vocal about hating it.

"I dragged him to a yoga class one time kicking and screaming ... He said 'I can't help it, smoking and drinking is a lot more fun than yoga.'"

Almost every detail in the obituary is based on something true about Segeske's personality — down to his pride in knowing Beatles lyrics and accurately hitting urinal cakes. Even the raunchier details.

"Looking at boobs is a given," Razzi said.

He didn't literally stalk Jennifer Lawrence, he was just a fan, she said.

"We watched 'Silver Linings Playbook' I don't know how many times," Razzi said.

Philly soft pretzels were Segeske's favorite food — he called them "Kensington breakfast" and was a fan of the ones from Bernie's in Aldan, Pennsylvania.

"Up to the day he died, it was a great ride, it was an amazing dance ... He may have died penniless, but he was a rich, rich man," Razzi said. "He died at 6:16 p.m. I held him until his last breath."

Sometimes it's hard to tell where jokes and fiction end and reality begins.

For example, did Razzi and Segeske really first meet during short stints in a psychiatric hospital, when he caught a piece of chicken thrown at her by another patient?

Razzi won't say, beyond, "those who know what happened know."

Arrangements

The life of Buddy Segeske will be celebrated at a Mass at Holy Innocents Parish at 1337 E. Hunting Park Ave. on Saturday at 9 a.m., to be followed by a luncheon. Donations to the family for funeral costs can be made via Gofundme.

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Soda tax priority in mayor's new budget

The mayor talked education, policing and more.

JENNY DEHUFF and JASON NUCKOLLS
letters@metro.us

In his first budget address as Philadelphia's mayor, Jim Kenney described his plan to fund a variety of initiatives ranging from childhood education to providing police with more body cameras.

On Thursday Kenney presented his ambitious budgetary plan to expand childhood education, revamp parks, libraries and recreation centers, improve energy efficiency in public buildings and provide police with more body cameras. Much of the funding for these plans comes from his proposed additional tax of 3 cents per ounce on sugary beverage distributors.

But he faces an uphill battle against his friends in the restaurant and hospitality industries, who are worried they will have to pass the cost of the tax onto their consumers. Kenney's 3-cent tax is double the proposal made almost six years ago by then-mayor Michael Nutter. His was shot down twice by City Council.

"The problem is that Big Soda charges our citizens, small businesses and distributors much, much more than what it costs for them to make the soda," Kenney said before explaining how this proposed tax will not impact small businesses or jobs.

"Employment did not slow down after the liquor tax was instated," the mayor said. "Small grocers, bodegas and convenience stores are already stocking and selling non-sugary beverages."

Kenney's budget speech focused heavily on expanding pre-kindergarten in Philadelphia, with a target of providing 25,000 pre-K seats over the next five years.

In keeping with his focus on education, the mayor also proposed the establishment of 25 community schools, which are public schools that become a hub for their surrounding neighborhoods by integrating social services.

"This helps increase parental engagement, and community investment in the success of the school," the mayor explained.

Along with his focus on communities, the mayor proposed a $350 million investment in community infrastructure with an emphasis on improving libraries, city parks and recreation centers.

"I'm proposing issuing $100 million in bonds to make energy-efficient infrastructure improvements to branch libraries, police stations, firehouses and other city properties," Kenney outlined with regards to his strategy for improving energy efficiency in the coming years.

"Investments in energy efficiency create middle-class jobs and help the city save money that can be reinvested in other critical initiatives, like education and public safety," Kenney stated.

The plan for increasing police-worn body cameras has gotten attention as it is part of a larger goal to outfit all 8,500 officers with cameras by 2019, the Philadelphia Business Journal reported.

"As Councilman [Curtis] Jones pointed out passionately during hearings last year, body-worn cameras have been extremely successful in reducing use of force as well as police abuse allegations across the country," the mayor said.

Kenney ended his budget proposal by reminding city officials of the importance of passing the sugary beverage tax.

"But none of [this] can happen … not pre-K, not community schools, not desperately needed investment in parks, rec centers and libraries, if we don't pass a sugary drink tax. There is simply nowhere else to find this revenue."

Brian O'Neill, who has a Pepsi business in his Northeast Philly district, said he could not — in good conscience — support a 3-cent soda tax.

"I believe that it will cost us jobs," he told Metro.

"[Kenney's] priorities are very, very good. They're needed. They've been neglected. I think our challenge will be working with the Kenney administration to fund them…I do think there is a really strong feeling that we should try to find a broad-based tax that we can maybe nick a lot of unhealthy items rather than putting a sledgehammer on one of them."

At-large Republican Al Taubenberger called the mayor's initiatives "game changers" for Philadelphians and for attracting people to come to the city.

"How you pay for it, though, is an entirely different realm, and I'm not really pleased to have one industry be sought out to be the bearer of all these great things that we're proposing," he said.

Council President Darrell Clarke was measured in his response to the budget, saying he would give careful consideration to it.

"We don't ever talk about what we want to support until we hear all the details," Clarke said.

"I support the initiatives. I think this soda tax was clearly designated for very specific purposes, and these purposes have broad-based support, so we'll see."

City Council has 90 days until they must decide on the budget.

Mayor Jim Kenney gave his first budget address to a packed house in City Council chambers at City Hall. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Mayor poised to hire new 'director of international investment'

In an effort to attract more international business to Philadelphia, Mayor Jim Kenney will hire a man or woman whose sole job will be showcasing the city to the business world.

Crediting Councilman David Oh for promoting Philadelphia globally, Kenney announce during Thursday's budget address that the city would soon be hiring a director of international investment, "who will build on the councilman's efforts, increasing export activity and attracting new businesses to locate in Philadelphia."

Asked specifics of what the job would entail, Kenney's people said they were in the final stages of the hiring process.

"The position will be working with small-to-medium-size businesses to help them learn how and what their opportunities are to export their services abroad, so they can have more business opportunities," said Sylvie Gallier Howard, chief of staff to the director of the city's commerce department.

Gallier Howard said that the position was held once before under Mayor Michael Nutter's administration, and that the job paid somewhere in the $80,000 range.

Oh said there was not a lot of Council effort on recruiting international business to Philadelphia prior to his arrival to City Hall in 2012.

"It's part of trying to provide more opportunities to Philadelphia by expanding our ceiling by going global," said Oh, who named the manufacturing of helicopters in northeast Philly and trains in southeast Philly as examples of expansion.

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BRIEF

Police charge Kensington mom caught passed out with kids in car

The mother caught on camera passed out in her car with a 1-year-old boy in the backseat is now facing criminal charges for endangering the welfare of a child, police announced Thursday.

Heaven Lee Richardson, 28, of Northeast Philly, was spotted Tuesday slumped unconscious in her silver Ford Escape near

The passed-out mom. PROVIDED

Janney Street and Allegheny Avenue by a passerby who began filming when he saw there was a child in the car with her. The woman was parked in Port Richmond near the border of Kensington, an area that is a well-known haven for heroin dealers and users.

Police received calls of a "female possibly overdosed, and a toddler is in the vehicle with her" at 5:40 p.m. Tuesday.

"Look at this. B— is nodded the f-- out with a baby in the back seat. Hey yo!" the person filming can be heard yelling in cellphone video.

The person with a camera, who was not identified, told Fox29 he picked up a brick and broke a car window to help the child inside before calling 911.

After medics arrived, Richardson allegedly abandoned her 1-year-old son and fled.

Police quickly found her hiding under a truck on the 2200 block of Allegheny Avenue.

Richardson, of the 5600 block of Miriam Street, was "visibly impaired," police said, and was taken to the hospital for medical clearance. Her son was released to a family member, police said.

It's not the first time Richardson has had a run in with the law.

In 2014, she was reportedly charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of drug paraphernalia after she and six others were arrested during a human trafficking/prostitution scheme in Salem County, New Jersey, according to NJ.com.

Philly court records show Richardson has a lengthy criminal history, including arrests for promoting prostitution, DUI and robbery. In 2007 she was sentenced to five years' probation for criminal conspiracy and robbery.

SAM NEWHOUSE

Philly prison guard needs surgery after attack by inmate

A female prison guard was allegedly attacked by a male inmate in the Philadelphia House of Corrections yesterday, officials said today.

Philadelphia Prisons System spokeswoman Shawn Hawes said that the guard required surgery for her injuries after she was assaulted around 4:45 p.m. Wednesday during a "routine cell check."

The inmate, who Hawes identified as Ricky Smith, 26, is in custody for theft, receiving stolen property, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and resisting arrest, according to court records. He will be charged at the conclusion the assault investigation, officials said.

"It looks like, according to the initial report, he was egged on by another inmate and he actually did the attack," Hawes said. "The injury is significant to her face."

The guard remains in pain from a badly split lip, said Lorenzo North, head of AFSCME Local 159, which represents city correctional officers.

"She was just working and the inmate came up to her and punched her in the face," North said, adding that the guard was treated by a plastic surgeon.

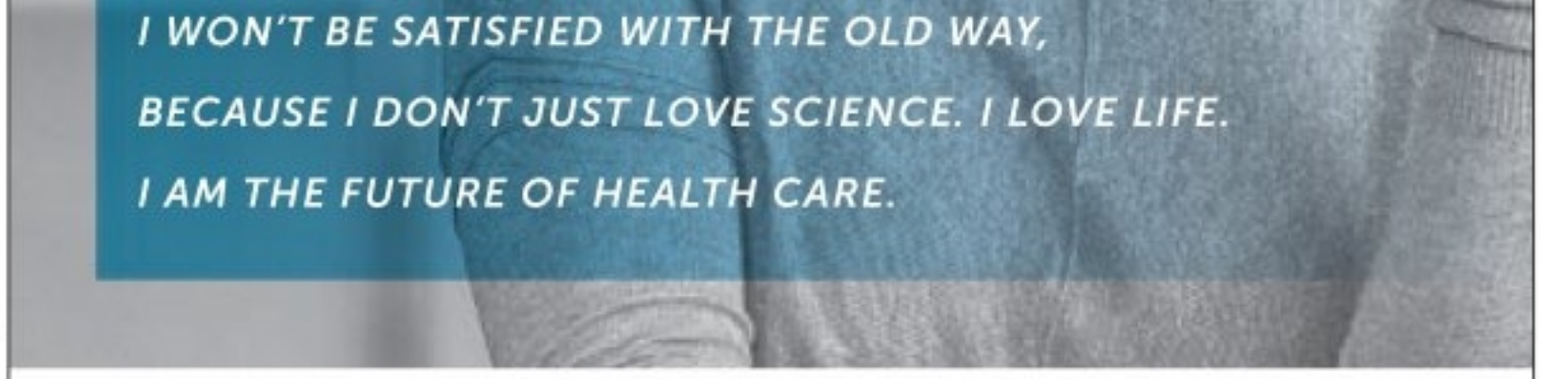
An image of the guard viewed by Metro shows an inch-long vertical laceration through her lips.

North said it was the second such attack in that jail this week.

"The day before, another officer was punched in the face. This inmate slipped out of his cuffs and just punched the officer in the face," he said.

Hawes confirmed that incident occurred at the House of Corrections the day before, but said the two attacks did not appear to be connected.

SAM NEWHOUSE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Rep. Chaka Fattah CHARLES MOSTOLLER

TIME FOR FATTAH TO STEP DOWN

THE ERNEST OPINION

ERNEST OWENS
@MrErnestOwens

I was always told that Philadelphia's low voter turnout for local elections is a result of its citizens not being politically engaged.

That's interesting because many in the city seem to rally heavily behind presidential candidates such as Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders without hesitation. Last Saturday, there was a big march for Sanders in Center City that had an estimated 1,000 attendees.

Many were calling for a national overhaul of government corruption and backdoor politics. However, as I saw this crowd lament about top-tier political figures — I looked inward.

Has anyone forgotten that one of our state's U.S. congressmen is currently on trial for racketeering?

The Department of Justice has been investigating Democratic U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah on charges tied to a host of public corruption schemes for months. And yet he's still running for a 12th term.

Yes, before his trial date six days later, Fattah wants our vote for the April 26 Democratic primary. Because apparently being charged for bribery, money laundering, bank fraud and allegedly attempting to repay an illegal 2007 mayoral campaign loan isn't enough for him to rescind.

And yet — despite his wife, famed NBC10 reporter Renee Chenault-Fattah, officially leaving her job last week after being allegedly linked to the scandal, and his son, Chaka "Chip" Fattah Jr. being behind bars after being convicted on federal bank- and tax-fraud charges — he still believes he's best qualified to serve the state during this very tough time.

With all due respect, that isn't confidence — that's arrogance.

Part of why Philly politics has run amuck for years is because there's not much accountability on the local level. Why isn't anyone seriously telling Fattah publicly that his run for office is a disservice to the entire community? We can demand Clinton to show her emails, tell Donald Trump that he's unfit to lead the country, but not our own congressman who has a history of refusing to reveal his taxes?

The double standards are atrocious because, in the grand scheme of things, local politics directly impact us the most. I think that part of the reason why many major politicos in the city don't speak out against Fattah is because he's the highest-ranking black elected official in our state. Black political power is a necessity and yet a burden to our city. Some folks have utilized it. Others have abused it.

I think it's safe to say that Fattah falls within the latter. If he is to have any sense of integrity, it would be best that he drops out of this race — whether he's fully convicted or not.

Because where there's smoke, there's fire — and I predict that this upcoming trial will expose more disappointment than our city needs right now. Furthermore, it's going to be a national embarrassment for us to have all of this go down during the upcoming Democratic National Convention.

Please Fattah, spare the city and yourself from the epic backlash that's coming — drop out now!

"Part of why Philly politics has run amuck for years is because there's not much accountability on the local level."

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BRIEF

Yahoo exploring sale of $1 billion to $3 billion in 'non-core assets': CFO

Yahoo Inc. is exploring the sale of $1 billion to $3 billion of patents, property and other "non-core assets," its chief financial officer said Thursday.

Yahoo CFO Ken Goldman told the Morgan Stanley Technology, Media and Telecom Conference that a committee created to explore alternatives to the company's plan to spin off its core business is looking at quick sales of assets.

Goldman said patents, land, property and "non-core units or businesses" are all on the table for potential sale, and the company has sold or licensed more than $600 million in patents over the last three years.

Yahoo faces increasing pressure from shareholders and investors to sell its core business instead of going through a spinoff that would separate the company from its multibillion-dollar stakes in Yahoo Japan and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

Yahoo GETTY IMAGES

In recent weeks, media reports have surfaced that Time Inc., Verizon Communications Inc. and several other suitors have emerged as potential buyers.

Goldman did not confirm the reports but said the committee is "aligned to see what best creates shareholder value." REUTERS

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Google engineers are trying to help map the Zika virus. GETTY IMAGES

Google working with UNICEF to map Zika

Google engineers are working with U.N. child agency UNICEF to analyze data in an effort to map and anticipate the spread of the Zika virus, linked to birth defects among children in Brazil, the company said on Thursday.

Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc., said in a statement it was providing a $1 million grant to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund to help it raise awareness about Zika, reduce mosquito populations and support other Zika-related initiatives on the ground, mostly in Latin America.

The U.S. company said that it was also updating its products to make information on Zika more available.

Scientists suspect Zika may cause microcephaly in babies, a condition defined by unusually small heads that can result in developmental problems. Brazil said it has confirmed more than 640 cases of microcephaly, and considers most of them to be related to Zika infections in the mothers. Brazil is investigating more than 4,200 additional suspected cases of microcephaly.

Zika, transmitted by mosquitoes, was first detected in Brazil last year and is spreading rapidly in the Americas, according to the World Health Organization, which last month declared the outbreak a global health emergency.

Much is unknown about the disease, including whether it actually causes microcephaly. One of the difficulties in tracking the outbreak is that no reliable test for the virus exists, and in many cases victims present no symptoms.

Google said it had seen a 3,000 percent increase in global search interest since November.

Google said it had added extensive information about Zika globally in 16 languages, with an overview of the virus, symptom information, and health alerts from governments and international organizations.

Google said a volunteer team of its engineers, designers and data scientists was helping UNICEF build a platform to process data from different sources, including weather and travel patterns, in order to visualize potential outbreaks. REUTERS

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

'Donald Trump is a fraud': Romney

Romney warned that polls show Trump would likely lose to possible Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Mitt Romney GETTY IMAGES

Former U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney gave a blistering rebuke of 2016 Republican frontrunner Donald Trump on Thursday, leading an attempt by the party establishment to halt the rise of the outspoken New York billionaire.

Romney, a Republican elder statesman and the nominee four years ago, urged Republicans in states that have not yet held nominating contests to back Trump's opponents to stop his march to the nomination for the Nov. 8 election to succeed President Barack Obama.

"Here's what I know. Donald Trump is a phony, a fraud," said Romney, 68, in a hard-hitting speech.

"He's playing the members of the American public for suckers. He gets a free ride to the White House and all we get is a lousy hat," he said.

Trump has made his party's mainstream uneasy with his positions on trade and immigration, including his calls to build a wall between the United States and Mexico, deport 11 million illegal immigrants and temporarily bar Muslims from entering the country.

But Romney's strategy risks backfiring by further energizing Trump's supporters, who are angry with a party they see as not representing their views on illegal immigration, trade and America's role in the world. REUTERS

Donald Trump Jr. appears with white supremacist on radio show

One of Donald Trump's sons appeared along with a white supremacist while giving an interview on a conservative radio show, adding to concerns that the frontrunner in the battle to be the Republican candidate in November's presidential election is willing to accept support from extremist supporters.

Donald Trump Jr., who is actively campaigning for his father, gave an interview on Tuesday on "Liberty Roundtable," a conservative Utah-based radio show hosted by Sam Bushman.

During the show, he was questioned by James Edwards, another radio host whose show "The Political Cesspool" is described by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a leading civil rights group, as "racist and anti-Semitic."

During the interview, conducted over the telephone, Trump Jr. talked about what a good father Donald Trump was and how his campaign is changing the Republican Party.

"It's not a campaign anymore, it's a movement," he told his interviewers.

Edwards said on his blog on Tuesday he would rebroadcast the 20-minute interview on Saturday on "The Political Cesspool."

The show, founded in 2005 and syndicated by Bushman's Liberty News Radio organization, has featured such extremists as former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke and Holocaust denier Willis Carto.

Donald Trump Jr. GETTY IMAGES

Edwards also said on his blog he had attended a Memphis rally for the billionaire candidate as a credentialed media member last Saturday.

The Trump campaign, asked about an interview in the presence of the Tennessee-based Edwards, denied any knowledge of it. The campaign also said it did not know about Edwards' personal views. REUTERS

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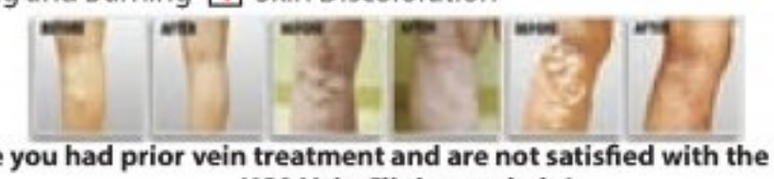

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BUILDING THE ELECTORAL CATAPULT

THE FOREMAN OPINION

TOM FOREMAN

I've always been struck by a simple reality in politics: If any candidate can tap into that very deep well of people who don't normally vote, convincing them to show up at the polls, that candidate will blow the projection models to pieces. Faced with a campaign that breaks the political mold, polls can become extremely unreliable.

Barack Obama did it in 2008. Even as he described himself as the unlikeliest of candidates, he was drawing oceans of new voters — a giant, electoral catapult that launched him from relative obscurity into the White House, even though only a year earlier many political analysts would have given him zero chance of winning the Democratic nomination, let alone the general election.

I wasn't sure I'd ever see such a thing again. That is, until this primary season. And my, oh my. How the worm has turned. In case you haven't noticed, Republicans are showing up all over the place in record-breaking numbers, while Democrats are lagging far behind. More than nine million voters have made their mark for GOP candidates already, while only six million and change have weighed in for the current president's party.

If you are a Democrat, this ought to be keeping you up at night.

What's driving the big numbers? Many of the after-action reports from the primaries and caucuses sum it up in a word: Trump. The billionaire from New York is smashing down all the walls of political predictability, collecting support from a surprisingly wide base of voters. Sure, he's managed to alienate a good many too, what with his inflammatory statements about religious, ethnic and immigrant groups. But he has also ginned up a staggering amount of enthusiasm. In our polls, the GOP are tremendously excited about this election; eager to get to November, eager to cast their ballots, eager to take back that nice place on Pennsylvania Avenue. While Democrats? It's much harder to find that kind of fire on their side right now.

The election is still a ways off. Things can change. But if Dems don't start getting excited about their candidate, the rumble we're hearing right now could turn out to be the wooden wheels of another enormous contraption ready to launch a once long-shot candidate — this time a Republican — right into the Oval Office.

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‘Tampon tax’ targeted in class-action suit

New York state’s “tampon tax” reflects a double standard that applies the sales tax to menstrual products used by women while exempting items typically used by men, such as Rogaine and condoms, according to a class-action lawsuit filed on Thursday.

“It’s a tax on women for being women. And that’s wrong,” said Ilann Maazel, a lawyer representing the five women who filed the class action in state Supreme Court in Manhattan.

New York is one of 40 states that levy a sales tax on feminine sanitary products, and Maazel said he hoped suing the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance would trigger a national rollback of what he said are illegal taxes.

The five women who filed the lawsuit include an actor, photographer, law school professor, church program coordinator and data scientist.

GETTY IMAGES

The lawsuit seeks to end the tax and to refund money to the estimated five million women who purchase menstrual products in the state.

The 4 percent state sales tax applied to tampons, sanitary napkins and other products used by women during their monthly menstrual cycle amounts to $14 million a year in New York, Maazel said.

Menstrual products should be included on the list of items exempt from the sales tax because they are deemed necessary to human health. That exemption is already granted to Rogaine, condoms, foot powder, dandruff shampoo, acne soap, incontinence pads and other items, the lawsuit said.

“These are not luxury items, but a necessity for women’s health,” the lawsuit said.

Women spend an average of $70 each year on tampons and pads, according to the lawsuit.

“Without access to tampons and sanitary pads, women are forced to use unsanitary and dirty rags — which can lead to infections and an increased risk of diseases such as cervical cancer — or have nothing at all to staunch the blood — which poses a risk to the health of women and the public,” the suit said. REUTERS

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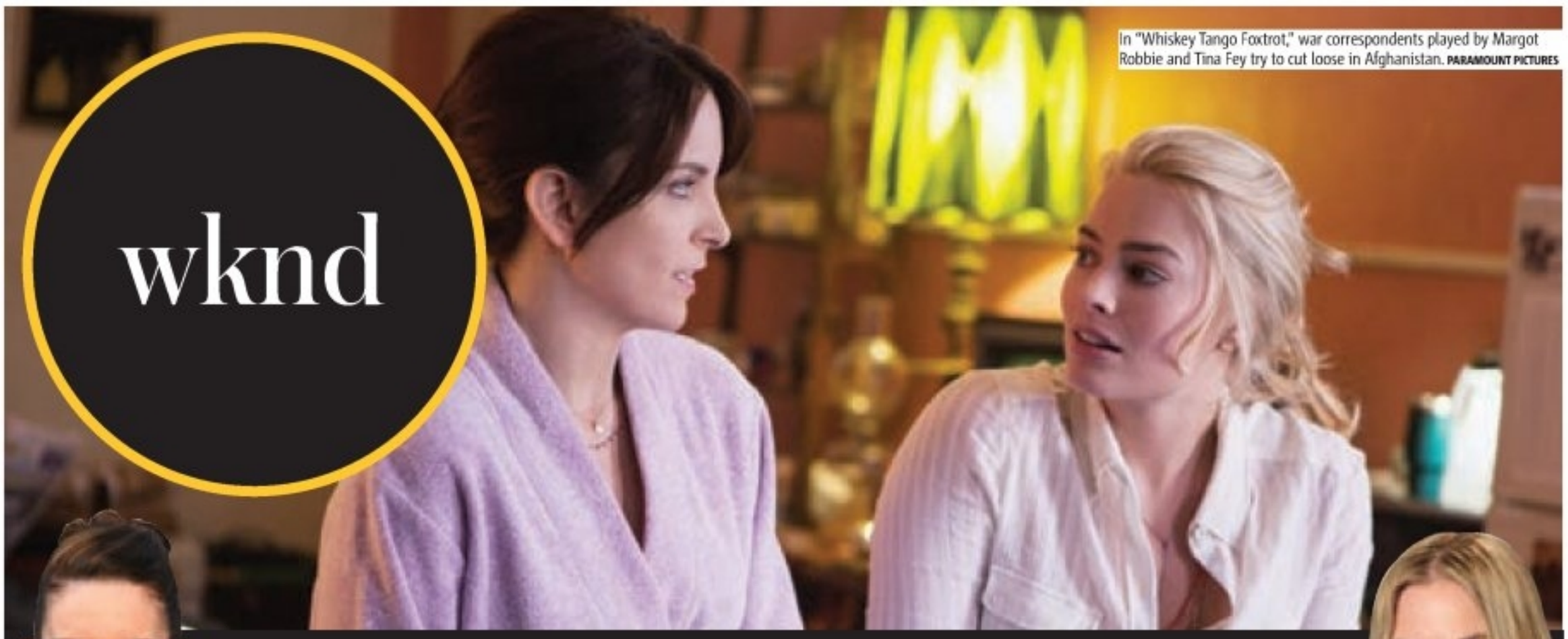

In "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot," war correspondents played by Margot Robbie and Tina Fey try to cut loose in Afghanistan. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Tina Fey and Margot Robbie go to war

GETTY IMAGES

The stars of "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" learn what women face as war correspondents.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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Tina Fey remembers when she first heard about Kim Barker's "The Taliban Shuffle," the nonfiction book that became the film "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot." It was in the The New York Times book review section.

"It said, 'This is like a Tina Fey character.' And because I'm an egomaniac and a moron, that really spoke to me," Fey says.

In the film, the "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" star plays a slightly fictionalized version of Barker, who was a war correspondent in Afghanistan and Pakistan from 2003 to 2006. It's not a full-on drama, but it's not a full-on comedy either. It's not even, Fey maintains, a satire a la "MASH."

"There are so many great war comedies," says Fey. This one, she argues, is different. "This movie, at its core, is a human story. It's not about relationships. It's not political. It's not 'Dr. Strangelove.' It's about a woman who's made the choice to blow up her existing life and go on this adventure."

Covering the day-to-day of the job over three years, "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" still points out a lot of the absurdities of war, including what it's like to be a Western woman trying to work in this part of the world. "You're just doing your job and someone will full-tilt grab your ass," Fey explains.

Of course, Fey is only going off what she read in Barker's book. She and the crew never had to experience Afghanistan firsthand, given that they shot in New Mexico. In a sense that's a shame: Co-star Margot Robbie — who plays a correspondent at another news agency — is an avid world traveler who won't let her sudden fame post-"Wolf of Wall Street" keep her from staying in hostels, not hotels.

"I really like investing myself in a different culture," Robbie says. "I feel you get to do that more when you stay in hostels. When you're in a hotel, you can be anywhere in the world. They all look the same, to an extent."

Both Fey and Robbie said making the film made them appreciate how being born in the U.S. and Australia, respectively, has kept them from more severe forms of sexism. Robbie says she doesn't feel like she's been reduced to her looks.

"I've been very fortunate. I haven't been exploited, I don't feel," she explains. "I'm more concerned with being labeled as a sex symbol. That makes me feel more uncomfortable than any day-to-day interactions I have."

"Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" is still a hard sell to audiences these days, particularly in our superhero multiplex landscape. "Maybe we should say that the vehicles transform into robots, and then they fight each other," jokes Fey. "You're going to be halfway through before you realize that doesn't actually happen."

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Gerard Butler shoots people in "London Has Fallen." DAVID APPLEBY, GRAMERCY PICTURES

"London has Fallen"

Director: Babak Najafi
Stars: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart
Rating: R
● ● ● ● ●

"That all they got?" quips one of the good guys toward the end of "London Has Fallen." This, after terrorists have blown up the city's every major landmark, assassinated Europe's leaders and taken out untold innocent civilians. Making its predecessor "Olympus Has Fallen" look like "Eddie the Eagle," this aggro sequel is a right-wing '80s fantasy on the order of "Rambo III" and "Death Wish 3," though not as charming as either.

Once again, Gerard Butler's Secret Service god Mike Banning is tasked with saving the president (Aaron Eckhart) in another city from another thoroughly incoherent plot. This one's hatched by dumb movies' favorite villains: scary Middle Easterners, and their scheme resembles no less than the November Paris attacks. So that's fun.

Watching a film like "London Has Fallen" is like briefly entering an alien headspace, where up is down, right is wrong and liberals like Morgan Freeman and Angela Bassett are tasked with spouting rightie lines about killing 'em all and letting God sort 'em out. There's no way to defend a movie like this, in which our hero tells a Middle Eastern character to "Go back to F—headistan!" whose politics are Trump-level incoherent and in which drones kill innocent people but are still rad. The only proper response is to have a good laugh at its expense, even if you'll need a cold shower after. MATT PRIGGE

Tina Fey isn't just Liz Lemon in Afghanistan in "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot." PARAMOUNT PICTURES

"Whiskey Tango Foxtrot"

Director: Glenn Ficara, John Requa
Stars: Tina Fey, Margot Robbie
Rating: R
● ● ● ● ●

"Tina Fey war comedy" sets "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" up to look like something it's not quite. It's not "30 Rock Goes to Afghanistan," and it's not even a satire. It's a dramedy that teems with sharp (and, yes, often funny) details about life in the epicentre of wartime, more human than joke machine, even if that's eventually to a fault.

Based on "The Taliban Shuffle," Kim Barker's memoir of her stint as a war correspondent in the mid-aughts, it has Fey whimsically heading overseas, despite not being remotely prepared. "Whisky Tango Foxtrot" doesn't have a lot of narrative drive, and even throws in a token love interest. That he's actually a rakish cad (played by Martin Freeman) is a good example of the film's slightly darkened heart.

There's a lot of drinking and carousing, though as it wears on, the balance tilts more toward the serious. What started off as a film that perhaps too jokily plays the Chipmunks Christmas song ultimately winds up one that earnestly blasts Radiohead and The National. But the movie has enough goodness to power it through to the finish line, mostly victorious. MP

There's a big wave in the Norweigan "The Wave." MAGNOLIA PICTURES

"The Wave"

Director: Roar Uthaug
Stars: Krisoffer Joner, Ane Dahl Torp
Rating: R
● ● ● ● ●

The Norwegian "San Andreas" that's also sometimes the Norwegian "Jaws" (but without sharks), "The Wave" borrows freely and often from the Hollywood disaster movie playbook. It has a little more grit, but it's still the kind of broadly played movie where a key official blithely ignores the ranting doomsaying of our scruffy-haired hero, who of course is right. It's a blatant calling card that worked: Awesomely named director Roar Uthaug is already handling the next "Tomb Raider." He'll fit right in.

The cliches pile up: Kristian (Kristoffer Joner) is a geologist with one day left to retirement, before he uproots his family from a homey small town to the big bad city. Of course, it's a village nestled on a mountaintop that's about to experience a super-rockslide, which leads to a mega-tsunami.

The aftermath is where Uthaug really shows his stuff, though his workmanlike direction can't hide the predictability. There's the woman who freezes at the wrong time; there's the selfless rando who's only there to die one of the world's worst kinds of deaths. That Uthaug is able to score any tension out of moldy situations is a feat in and of itself. The craft on display in "The Wave" means he may bring a lean classicism (and modest running times) to America's bloated fare. MP

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One of the better scenes in "Zootopia" is set at a DMV staffed with painfully slow sloths. DISNEY

"Zootopia"

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore, Jared Bush
Stars: Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman
Rating: PG
● ● ● ● ●

Disney's 55th toon extravaganza has the brand's usual uplifting messages: Go after your dreams, don't give up, be kind to your fellow ... well, not human, but animal, since it's set in a world of talking critters. We're used to Disney homilies. What we're perhaps not used to is messages that are timely, even necessary. Despite its good cheer and rampant jokes, "Zootopia" is a big, sometimes messy, sometimes insightful exploration of bigotry, using animals to preach for a more evolved understanding of each other's innate differences. And it arrives as a war-crime-endorsing, Mussolini-retweeting demagogue is exploiting nativist fears on the road to the White House. It's a Disney film weirdly, if accidentally, of the moment.

The plea for decency and sanity isn't subtle, but it doesn't overly dominate "Zootopia," which is light and bouncy, by turns delightful and groan-worthy. Ginnifer Goodwin perkily voices Judy Hopps, who won't let being a tiny bunny keep her from her dream: becoming a cop in the big, bad, multicultural city. Ignored and undermined, she winds up assigned to a case no one wants: An otter goes missing, which turns out to be part of a larger conspiracy involving, of all things, in a fizzy Disney movie, the oppression of entire species.

Melding the fun with the serious is usually more Pixar's bag than Disney's, its corporate overlords. It often seems like "Zootopia" is trying to be more "Toy Story" than "Frozen"; there's even a nudge-nudge cheap shot diss of "Let It Go." It's edgier than most Disneys, but also not as smooth at integrating subtext into the silliness. The commentary can be rough, in ways both reckless and genuinely cutting, with references to affirmative action, right-to-deny-service signs and prejudice, even from our upbeat hero. It still finds room for silly set pieces, plus a solid "Emmett Otter" joke. But as a sometimes darkly honest movie about humanlike animals, it's certainly no "BoJack Horseman." MP

Ra Ra Riot just wants to put on a lively house party

The five-piece band released "Need Your Light" from Barsuk Records on Feb. 19. SHERVIN LAINEZ

After three records, Ra Ra Riot hit a fork in the road. The group's last effort, "Beta Love," embraced electronic dance music for the first time — and emotionally drained the group best known for violin-laced melodic chamber pop. Rather than burning out, vocalist Wes Miles and his band realized that they had to make some changes.

"We wanted to reconnect with all of the things that we felt when we were first starting, when we were a house party band," explains Miles. In order to channel this youthful vibe to make the indie rockers' new record "Need Your Light," (released in February from Barsuk Records) the five-piece had a solution: simply play some house shows.

"Before we even went into the studio, we did a little house party tour in fall 2014 and we connected with the same people that were at our first shows," continues Miles. "We brought that energy into the studio this time more than ever."

The result? A 10-song album that ties infectious, stadium-ready dance pop songs with quirky rock cuts. On one side of the spectrum, encore-ready electro jams like "Absolutely" and "Every Time I'm Ready to Hug" taunt the listener to jump for joy. On the other side, the title track and "Water" — with production help from former Vampire Weekend guitarist Rostam Batmanglij — dive into the group's expansive, string-laden rock roots.

While '80s synth vibes are most noticeable on the record, Miles also noted influences from Kate Bush, Brian Eno, Soul II Soul and Janet Jackson. As well as one particular record: U2's adventurous 1991 LP "Achtung Baby." "That's one thing that Rostam and I bonded over a lot and within the band, too," says Miles. "It's one of our favorite records."

Glam rocker "Bouncy Castle," about a kid associating sexual desires with lust for the first time, is most representative of Ra Ra Riot's newfound lighthearted side. "I never would've written [it] when we first started because it's just so silly," explains Miles. "To get in touch with the more energetic and raucous side, we had to let some of those silly things stand."

Embracing this silliness may be the key to a long future for the group that formed a decade ago in college at Syracuse University. "It's encouraging for the future that we can find ways to take the pressure off but still be excited about working together," says Miles.

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO

If you go

March 5, 8:30 p.m.
Union Transfer
1026 Spring Garden St.
$18, ticketfly.com

Tune in,

Society Hill Playhouse is closing next month, but not without a bang (several, in fact).

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

"It's been a great ride but all things come to an end, don't they?" says Deen Kogan, the theatrical impresario and artistic director of the nearly 57-year-old Society Hill Playhouse.

That ending is coming next month — Kogan has sold her 8th Street theater to local developers/realtors the Toll Brothers and will leave the theater around April 1. But she's not leaving without putting on a memorable farewell. "We're not going quietly," she says with a laugh, pointing to the Playhouse's final production: the world premiere of "Liberty City Radio Theatre," playing for two shows only beginning tonight.

The nostalgic production reimagines old-timey radio dramas for the stage, crossing genres from noir to screwball comedy all set to live music. Get there early — each performance begins with a casual cocktail hour before the show. Writer/producer Bill Arrowood has worked as a location manager in Philadelphia's film industry for 15 years and is an assistant director of the South Street Headhouse District. "I met Deen when I was asked to come to the theater to clean up a dead squirrel outside shortly after I started working on South Street, and found her formidable and charming," says Arrowood. "After spending only a little time with her and in the Play-

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one last time

From left: James Miller, Alexandra Rush, Joshua Kirwin and Kate Heaney recreate the golden age of old time radio in "Liberty City Radio Theatre." KORY AVERSA

house, I discovered that both were worth celebrating and knew the best way to do that was with a show like this."

There was never anything quiet about Kogan or her local, anti-elitist play palace. Since its first shows in 1960, the Playhouse has championed offbeat theater of all stripes. The debut show was an intellectual thriller — an adaptation of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's "Deadly Game" — followed by premiere productions of Bertolt Brecht's "The Threepenny Opera," Peter Weiss' "Marat/Sade" and other avant-garde masters (Jean Genet, Harold Pinter) before becoming a home to crafty mainstream fare such as "Nunsense" (which ran for a decade) and the equally durable "Lafferty's Wake."

Kogan developed an intimate space, the Red Room — "my brother, David Falk, built that stage" — that held cabaret song shows, readings of poetry and crime fiction, and the casual A Play, A Pie and a Pint series. "The wonderful thing is that we pioneered so many different sorts of theater in this area," said Kogan of Society Hill Playhouse's mix of the populist and the experimental.

If you go

'Liberty City Radio Theatre'
March 4-5, 7 p.m.
Society Hill Playhouse
507 S. 8th St.
$15-$20, 215-923-0210
Societyhillplayhouse.org

With her late husband, Jay Kogan, she purchased what became the Playhouse reportedly for $10,000, and acted as a one-woman artistic director and promoter since his 1993 passing.

Kogan resisted the entreaties of the Toll Brothers for several years, but relented in February 2015 and began the process of dismantling the Playhouse. She quietly offered its seats to other local houses and gathered her archives for donation to Temple University. Besides these final shows, patrons can also snag a piece of memorabilia at a March 13 yard sale, check out a noir crime reading on March 19, and pay their respects at a goodbye party for March 25.

As for Kogan's future, she's planning Philadelphia's annual NoirCon convention of crime writers at the end of October and is considering opening a small theater space in the building that houses Port Richmond Books on Richmond Street. "Nothing is ended," she says. "There are just new beginnings."

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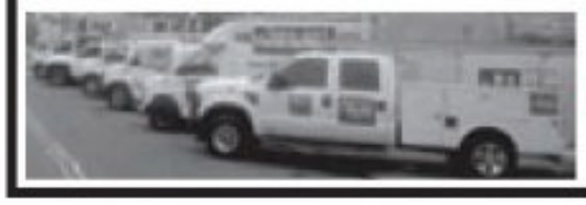

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Behind the scenes at the 3rd Philly Chef Conference

Drexel's annual restaurant industry forum is open to the public this Sunday.

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You know their gnocchi. You've dreamt about their curries. You would do things you'd rather not admit for their fried chicken.

But how familiar are you with them? This Sunday, the Philly Chef Conference is open to the public for an insider's look into the city's flourishing restaurant industry.

"The Philadelphia food scene is becoming a lot more knowledgeable. People who are into food aren't just into going to restaurants anymore — they're interested in how it's prepared, where it's coming from, the story behind it," says conference organizer chef Michael Traud, who earned his stripes at Vetri and Zeppoli before becoming director of Drexel's Hospitality Management Program, which is hosting this weekend's forum.

Now in its third year, this Philly Chef Conference will feature two days of programming celebrating everything from bacon-laced artisan donuts to innovative start-ups addressing hunger in local communities. Although tickets are available to Sunday's TED-talk inspired presentations, Monday is reserved for professionals. The chance to come together to learn and network — not to mention eat — is a rare and valuable one in a hectic, round-the-clock industry.

"People come in on their day off to learn something new or meet someone new, and that's a testament to the food scene in Philadelphia right now," says Traud. "It really highlights the strength and unity of the city's restaurants, chefs and food community."

If you go

The Philadelphia Chef Conference is open to the public this Sunday, March 6, at Drexel's Bossone Research Center (3126 Market St.). For tickets ($20) visit Drexel.edu.

You know you want to learn how to make your own pizza at home. BMK PHOTOGRAPHY

> *"People who are into food aren't just into going to restaurants anymore — they're interested in how it's prepared, where it's coming from, the story behind it."*
>
> Traud

On the menu

In preparation for this weekend's conference, Drexel's culinary students put their decadent spin on some of the city's sweetest treats. The only thing that could possibly top their spiced Mexican chocolate donut with bacon developed for Federal Donuts? That would be their chocolate-covered pretzel and caramel ice cream created for Little Baby's. That, kids, is what we call the Lord's work — good on you.

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‘Hamilton’ goes gender-blind with new casting call

George Washington, center, played by Christopher Jackson on Broadway, is one of the roles that women as well as men are invited to audition for. JOAN MARCUS

We’re quickly losing count of all the ways that “Hamilton” is revolutionary, but its race-blind casting may end up being its most influential legacy. Though the Founding Fathers were all white, the Revolutionary War-era musical by writer and star Lin-Manuel Miranda is the most diverse on Broadway, with an entirely non-white main cast.

Now, a new Philly casting call for the Grammy-winning show posted on Backstage.com could further change expectations of who can fill those roles by seeking female as well as male actors for two key parts: President George Washington and Alexander Hamilton’s friend and rival Aaron Burr.

For the role of Washington, the casting call specifies only two requirements: non-white and able to sing tenor/baritone. Men and women between the ages of 30 and 49 are invited to apply.

The notes for Burr are a bit more specific: non-white men and women ages 20-39, also tenor/baritone and able to sing and rap “in equal measure … Javert [from ‘Les Miserables’] meets Mos Def.”

The roles of Hamilton, his wife Eliza Schuyler and her sister Angelica are also being cast, though the production is sticking with their original genders.

According to a publicity rep for the production, the casting call applies to roles in the Broadway show as well as the production’s upcoming September expansion into a second home in Chicago and a touring company next year.

So actors, don’t throw away your shot — you’ve got until March 19 to apply. EVA KIS

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8 Intriguing questions for Union

The 2016 season will be Andre Blake's chance to show he's worthy of being a former first round pick. GETTY IMAGES

Everyone is wondering if this is the year Philly finally breaks through to the post season.

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sports@metro.us

The Union will embark on their 2016 season on Sunday against FC Dallas as fans prepare for yet another season of similar aspirations. With new Sporting Director Earnie Stewart leading the charge, will the Union finally make it back to the postseason? Here are eight questions facing the Union this season.

1 Who will lead the team in scoring?
Forward C.J. Sapong narrowly led the team in scoring with nine goals in 2015 to Sebastien Le Toux's eight. He'll get strong competition for the goals lead in 2016 from rookie Fabian Herbers, the sixth pick of the MLS SuperDraft. Herbers had a knack at finding the back of the net with Creighton last season where he scored 15 goals in 21 starts.

2 Do the Union have a shot at a playoff spot?
With the Union finishing with the second-worst record (10-17-7) in the Conference last season and a lot of moving parts in the offseason, expectations are low for a playoff run in 2016, but not completely out of the question. In 2014, the Montreal Impact finished with the worst record in the East, only to jump to the third best team in the East.

3 Which new faces should I be watching?
The Union have three strong first-round picks making their MLS debut on Sunday. Herbers and defenders Joshua Yaro (2nd pick) and Keegan Rosenberry (3rd pick) look to make an immediate impact on the team on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. Chris Pontius, Ilsinho and Roland Alberg are all offseason acquisitions to keep an eye on the offensive side of the ball.

4 What does Sebastien Le Toux have left?
Not very much and it's going to be a tough pill to swallow for both Union fans and Le Toux as a player as the 2016 season progresses. To his credit, the franchise's all-time leading goal-scorer also logged the second most minutes (2,379) on the team last season to go with eight goals and six assists.

5 Can Maurice Edu stay healthy?
Maurice Edu is a central piece of the Union's core and philosophy. Playing at either midfield or center back, Edu has proven to be a versatile player during his tenure with the club. A groin injury forced him to miss 10 games last season, which required offseason surgery. He's already slated to miss the season opener. Expect him to be used sparingly to start the year until he's back to full strength.

6 Has Andre Blake secured his spot in net?
In six starts last season for the Union, Blake registered 26 saves and a 1.5 goals against average, tops on the team. Look for Blake to have a breakout year in 2016 with a revamped defense and more experience.

8 Will Jim Curtin be replaced?
All signs indicate that manager Jim Curtin has a great relationship with the owners, players and fans, but that doesn't mean Curtin's job is safe. Just as John Hackworth was relieved of his duties as team manager in 2014, Curtin could find himself on thin ice if the team doesn't show signs of development this season.

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Typically at home shooting beyond the arc, Robert Covington has recently made more contributions inside than usual. GETTY IMAGES

76ers among NBA's best in paint (usually)

Look at the stats, and the 8-53 Sixers, the worst team in the NBA, fall toward the bottom in most categories.

They can't score, they can't defend and don't rebound particularly well either.

But with Nerlens Noel, Jahlil Okafor and streaking Ish Smith on the roster, the team knows how to score in the paint.

Dead last in points per game with a hair over 96 per game, the 76ers (prior to a 119-99 loss to the Hornets on Wednesday) ranked fourth in all of basketball in the paint, with 45.5 per game.

Against the Hornets, with Okafor sidelined, the stout Charlotte defense held the 76ers to 28 points in the paint.

"What I noticed tonight is they are very good at packing in the paint," Sixers head coach Brett Brown said after the loss. "In the first half I think we shot 21 threes. I felt like we tried to finish in areas we couldn't, or shouldn't too much [Wednesday night]. Also, look at their blocked shots; they played in the crowd a lot."

Though they are lowly and dreary, Philly operates best when it can penetrate.

With just 21 games remaining until the NBA draft chatter officially begins, the Sixers will need to continue to refine their prowess near the basket.

"We are a young team and we play our hearts out each and every night," Robert Covington said. "We have to continue to fight; you never know what can happen. We have to take it day by day and get better." EVAN MACY

Sixers hanging tough against their newest foe: Fatigue

Have the 76ers hit a wall?

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

There isn't much experience in the Sixers locker room.

Most of the players on the roster are more used to a 30-game college basketball schedule than they are the rigors of the 82-game NBA marathon.

And while Brett Brown might not be shy to mention that he notices the fatigue, don't expect the players to own up to it.

"I feel like you can see that with a lot of our young guys," Brown said after another loss Wednesday. "Sometimes you get hit in the stomach, you have to find ways to get back in it. The game feels long; it is long. You're not gonna get a win unless you play long."

Nerlens Noel? He was hit in the face and tweaked his knee against the Hornets. But that's no excuse — this is the big leagues,

"It's the NBA, guys start to fatigue a little bit," the big man said. "We are in a solid place; we have gas in the tank. We need to finish strong. Regardless of the circumstances we have to shut up and do our job."

Noel has shaken off the injury-prone moniker after missing his entire rookie season following offseason surgery. He has missed a handful of games, but has also shown he can be tough and play through pain — qualities that make the 6-foot-11 forward a good leader.

"I'm just trying to play through it all," he said. "I grew up with two older brothers who played football. I'm pretty used to it."

Without a playoff push to motivate them, the 76ers have a tough situation to push through for the final dozen and a half games this season. But it's not a unique problem by any means.

"This is reality, this is our job," Brown, who has made several playoff pushes as an assistant with the Spurs, said. "It only gets harder the longer you play. I've said many times you can put me in a room, not show me what time or day it is and you can walk into an NBA game and say 'Yep, it's November' or 'Wow, it's May.'"

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Bradford, Pederson drawn to each other as members of quarterback club

Despite not knowing each other very well, Sam Bradford and Doug Pederson knew they were a perfect match.

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Sam Bradford and Doug Pederson had never met before the latter took over as the head coach of the former's football team.

But they were drawn together for one big reason (among others): They are both members of the NFL quarterback club.

"Someone like him has seen it firsthand," Sam Bradford told the media in a news conference Thursday. "Talking to some people who were here and worked with him before he went to Kansas City had great things to say."

Sam Bradford threw for 354 yards per game in final three weeks of the 2015 season, second best in the NFL in that span. GETTY IMAGES

Bradford was alluding to the fact that Pederson has not only coached quarterbacks but played the position as a backup for a lengthy career in Philly and Green Bay.

"We have a great atmosphere every time we step in the Linc. There's never been a moment I haven't enjoyed it here." Sam Bradford

And Pederson, seeing all the attributes he covets in a West Coast offense quarterback, insisted to Howie Roseman that the Birds bring back the free agent for 2016 and beyond.

"Having played the position, understanding the position, coaching the position, they want you to hear your opinion," Pederson said Thursday when asked how much input he had in Bradford's return, "and they understood where I was coming from to get Sam signed."

Bradford inked a two year, $36 million pact with $26 million guaranteed Tuesday and said there was never any doubt that Philly was his intended destination when his contract expired in 2015.

"This is where I want to be," Bradford said. "Obviously there was some change, some turnover, but I love the guys in that locker room … that's why I wanted to come back here. There really wasn't any temptation to [test free agency]. I told my agent this is where I wanted to be."

And the fact that Bradford chose the Birds, partially for the quarterback mind that is Pederson and partially to reunite with Jordan Matthews, Zach Ertz and the rest of his teammates — to try and take care of some unfinished business — appeals to Pederson.

"We are so excited, I am so excited," the coach said. "The thing I said earlier in the spring is that I want these players who are free agents [to] want to be here. I want all of them to be here, but having Sam is a big boost heading into free agency.

"He knows the team, he knows the players. It may be a little different set of plays we are installing but he knows the guys. That right there leads me to believe we can have success and make a run."

So a quarterback coaching a quarterback in a league that values quarterback play above all else; perhaps it's a perfect match.

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A walk-through meeting is scheduled for **March 9th, 2016 @ 2pm** at **4030 Brown Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.** (Please note we will be visiting all 3 sites during the walkthrough.)

All proposals must be submitted no later than **April 8th, 2016 @ 12 noon.** All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to Inquiry Charter School and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal

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5176 Andrews, Sarah Ashley-Shawon C, B, O • 4067 Burton, Kelvin J HH • 5151 Butler, Tyrell L HH, C, F
5148 Daise, Alfreda S HH, C, F • 5890 GREGORY, SHAMDEL S HH, C, F • 5013 Grier, Kariff A HH, F • 5186 Grimes, Sinquita D HH, C, F
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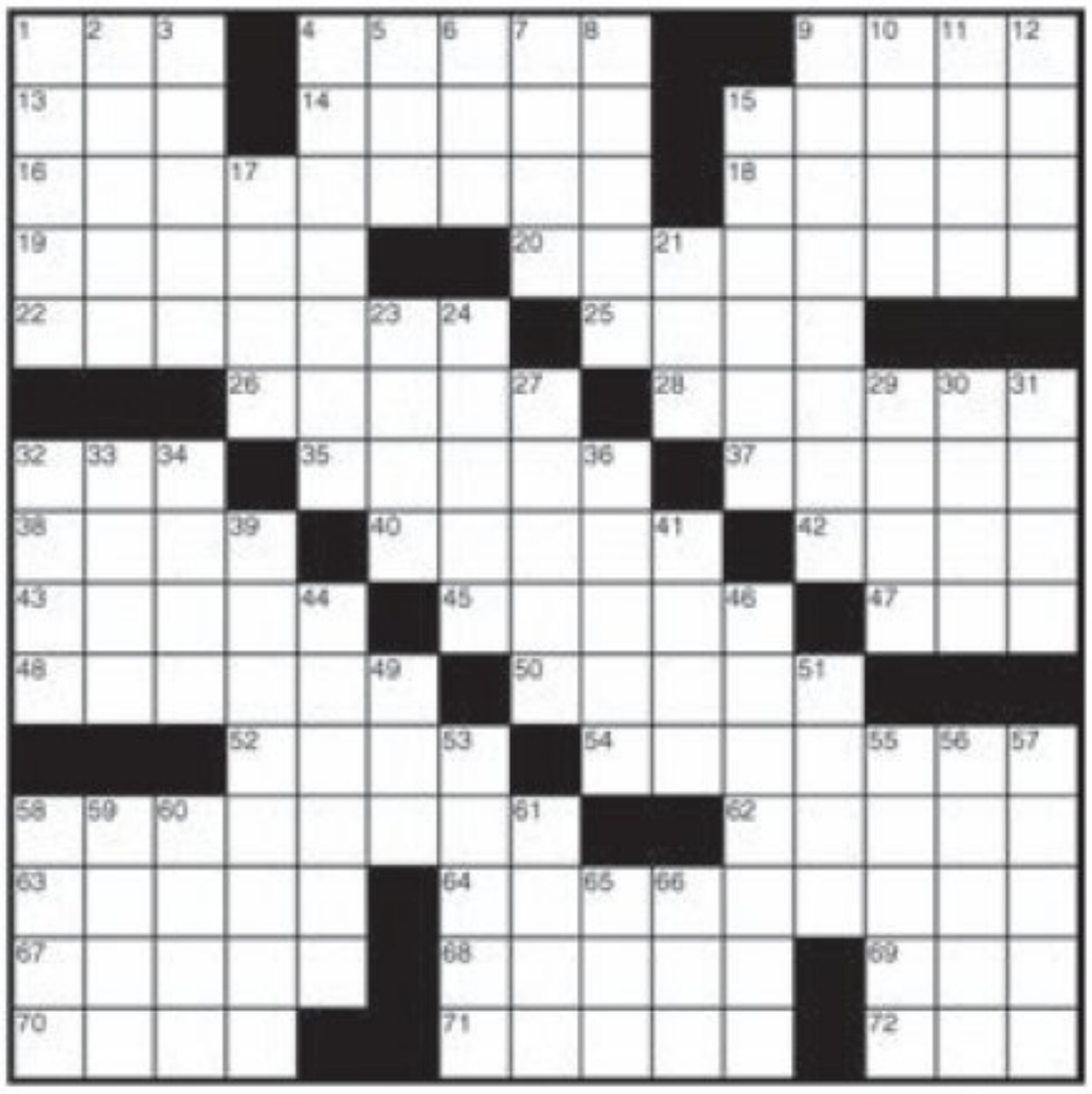

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19 Draw conclusions
20 Tonto's friend (2 wds.)
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25 Howard and Wood
26 Handle dough
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32 How come?
35 Hawk's gripper
37 Big Dipper neighbor
38 Cops, to a felon
40 First-magnitude star
42 Cigar end?
43 Knight's gear
45 Grills a steak
47 Mountain curve
48 Become expert in
50 Not hunched
52 Paton or Thicke
54 What Macbeth did
58 Daniel of "My Left Foot" (2 wds.)
62 Caterpillar or grub
63 One more time
64 Without risk
67 Beyond well-done
68 Number of Fates
69 Prizefighter's stat
70 Trolled
71 Hitched, as oxen
72 Half a bray

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1 Hindu ascetic
2 Helen, in Spanish
3 Complaints
4 Contest hopeful
5 Caesar's man
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7 Knock flat
8 Glacial ridge
9 Stress
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12 Gaelic
15 Rang up
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24 Closeouts
27 Grant recipient
29 After midnight
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31 Whacks weeds
32 Pow!
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36 Advances
39 Coming to
41 A Maverick brother
44 Give some slack
46 Sold hot tickets
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53 Really neat
55 Stock, in cookery
56 Draw forth
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59 Water, in Baja
60 Knitter's supply
61 Carnaby Street locale
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9			7					6
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6	3							4
4					1			5

hard

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9			6		2			7
		1	4	7				2
		7			3			

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Avoid an emotional scene with a co-worker, client or superior. Offer positive input in order to impress someone who can help you get ahead. Avoid gossip.

Taurus Carefully examine what's presented to you. Don't let your personal relationship with someone alter a necessary decision regarding a financial move.

Gemini Size up every challenge you face and opt to put your intelligence and strength to the test. Don't let anyone muscle into your affairs. Stay in control.

Cancer An interesting offer will change your professional direction. A chance to do more from home or to use your space liberally will be granted.

Leo Too many options will lead to a standstill. Be selective and pick what's best for you. Don't let anyone intervene or persuade you to take a risk.

Virgo Make reforms by sharing your ideas with people who are in a position to bring about change. If you step up, you will be given the responsibility to see matters to completion.

Libra Head to where the action is. If you participate in something, you will encounter people who will change your life. Trying something new or signing up for a self-help program will pay off.

Scorpio You'll be torn between what you want to do and helping someone you love. If you make an unusual request, you will be surprised by the response and the results.

Sagittarius Find out all you can in order to make any necessary changes easier. Don't feel obliged to take part in something you cannot afford or don't want to do.

Capricorn Take the initiative and find out what you need to know. An unexpected opportunity will help you use the information you discover to make a strategic move.

Aquarius Avoid anyone looking for a fight. Refuse to disagree so you can alleviate the problem and gain the time and space to accomplish your objectives. Positive change is within reach.

Pisces People will value your time and offer you assistance if you need it, so don't feel that you have to take on the world all by yourself. Accept help in order to achieve the most. **EUGENIA LAST**

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